

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-17 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuchitoi et al., US Patent 7,145, 683 in view of Gassho et al., US Patent 7,180,626 and Lin, US Patent 7,145,673. Also, claims 8 and 9 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuchitoi et al in view of Lin. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a system for processing print jobs, including print account jobs, in a network, comprising a plurality of client stations adapted to submit print jobs, and at least one printing device comprising a control unit and a printer, the control unit containing storage means for storing print jobs submitted in the printing device. More specifically, the present invention provides a system wherein account information can be added to the print job in a very flexible manner. To this end, means are provided for generating and submitting a print account job containing account information of a print job, wherein the print account job is linked to the corresponding print job by a linking identifier, and by means for validating stored print jobs for printing, wherein the validating means receives account jobs and validates a corresponding print job for printing in case a valid account job has been received. In this manner, a system is obtained wherein account information is submitted in a print account job which is generated as a second print job linked to the first print job. The focal point of the present invention lies in the fact that for the submission of account information from the perspective of a user, a mere print command is used. Thus, the account information is packed and generated in the same manner as a normal print job from the perspective of a job submitting workstation. This provides a big advantage in that from each and every station where you can submit a print job, you also will be able to submit account information for the job. It is just necessary to submit a second print job with the accounting information in it, at the right place, so that the receiving station will understand that it is not a real print job but rather concerns accounting information belonging to another print job. This means that no additional software is necessary to be installed on such a work station. The submitting work station perceives the account job as just another normal print job, and it does not matter if the job submission is done by filling in a job ticket or just by a sample print command. The method according to the present

invention can be used by every print job submitting system. In this connection, it should be recognized that claims 1 and 8 specifically recite that the print account job is generated as a second print job linked to the corresponding print job by a linking identifier. Thus, the account information is submitted in a print account job which is generated as a second print job linked to the first job.

The Tuhitoi reference is relied upon by the Examiner to disclose a system for processing a print job which is sent from a host 100 to a printer 150. The printer 150 comprises a data base 152 which manages various types of information, such as information concerning the printer or the attributes of the print job. The Gassho reference is relied upon by the Examiner to teach a system wherein the network contains a plurality of client stations 20, 30 and 40. However, the Examiner specifically realizes that the Tuhitoi and Gassho references fail to teach a system wherein a print account job is generated as a second print job. Accordingly, to fill the deficiency the Examiner further relies upon the Lin reference to teach a system wherein the print job is generated as a second print job. However, it is believed that the combination of references relied upon by the Examiner fails to render obvious the Applicants inventive contribution.

First of all, the conclusion reach by the Examiner that the Lin reference teaches a system in which the print job is generated as a second print job, is not understood since, according to the present invention, "the print account job" is generated as a second job. Since the "print account job" is completely different from the associated print job, it is believed that the Lin reference does not contemplate a "print account job" and thus does not contemplate the present invention.

The invention of the Lin patent provides a system that includes a database 90 and configured to store print job information and a print job remote manager 80. The print job remote manager 80 is configured to access print job information in the database 90 and provides graphical use interfaces for the users in order to replace a first set of print job information of a print job by a second set of print job information of the same print job according to the flow chart illustrated in Figures 9A to 9B of the Lin patent. In practice, upon receiving a second sent of printing attributes, a printer controller 55 is configured to cancel the first print job and to keep

the second print job pending. This is possible because the job attributes of the first print job are equal to the job attributes of the second print job. Only the values of the job attribute of the second print job may differ from the values of the job attributes of the first print job. By so doing the first print job will be deleted and the second print job will be printed.

On the other hand, according to the present invention, a first print job with print data and print attributes is sent to the printer. The second print job associated with the first job, is sent to the printer with account information belonging to the first print job. Because of the special format of the second print job, the second print job is recognized as a "print account job". Such a print account job will not be printed at all, but provides account information for the associated first print job. This account information is not part of the first print job and not part of the print job attribute of the first print job. Clearly, the print account job is not suited to replace the first print job. Moreover, the print account job will not replace print job attributes of the first print job since the account information contained in the print account job is not part of the print job attributes of the first print job. This is in direct contrast to the teachings of the Lin reference which discloses that a second print job completely replaces a first print job. Thus, the Lin patent does not suggest sending any account information with a print job. Nevertheless, if the account information is sent with the print job such account information may be added to a job ticket of the print job. Such a ticket normally contains job attributes of the print job. By so doing, all ticket formats that are supported by the printer must be adapted to accommodate the addition of the account information. Moreover, adding account information to print jobs having a job ticket requires modify the existing job ticket to insert the account information which is rather cumbersome. Therefore, it is believed that the present invention defines a novel unobvious system for processing print jobs in a network, which is not contemplated by the Lin reference and thus the modification of the Tuchitoi and Gassho patents with the teachings of the Lin patent cannot possible suggest the present invention.

Accordingly, in view of the above remarks reconsideration of rejections and allowance of all the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims of the present application are respectfully requested. In the event the Request for Reconsideration does not place the application in condition for allowance, entry thereof is respectfully requested as to place the application into better condition for appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch, Reg. No. 22, 463 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 29, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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